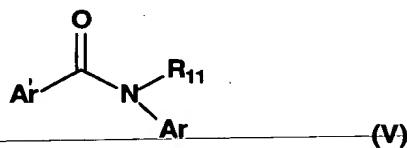


Substituted Nicotinamides and Analogs as Activators of Caspases and Inducers of Apoptosis and the Use Thereof

5

Abstract

The present invention is directed to substituted nicotinamides and analogs thereof, represented by Formula V:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, wherein:

Ar' and Ar are independently optionally substituted aryl or optionally substituted heteroaryl, provided that the ring structure of said optionally substituted heteroaryl comprises not more than two nitrogen atoms; and

R₁₁ is hydrogen; or alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted.

The present invention also relates to the discovery that compounds having Formula V are activators of caspases and inducers of apoptosis. Therefore, the compounds of this invention may be used to induce cell death in a variety of clinical conditions in which uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells occurs.